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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
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Summary record of the 1261st meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 30 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Neubauer (Vice-Chairperson)

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Ms. Neubauer, Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*)

Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Guinea (CEDAW/C/GIN/7-8; CEDAW/C/GIN/Q/7-8 and Add.1; HRI/CORE/1/Add.80/Rev.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Guinea took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea), introducing the combined seventh and eighth reports of Guinea, said that the Government attached great importance to women's rights. In accordance with the Committee's guidelines, the report had been prepared in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the field of women's rights. In the past, despite the fact that Guinea had enacted a range of legislation and ratified a variety of international instruments intended to protect human rights, a lack of political will for their implementation had led to serious and widespread violations of human rights. The organization of presidential elections in 2010 and legislative elections in September 2013 had created conditions conducive to peace and the prevention of all social tensions. As a result, the Government had been able to introduce a number of important strategic reforms, enact legislation to support justice reform and the independence of the judiciary and implement policies and action plans to strengthen national cohesion and good governance, among other things. The Government believed that for the protection and promotion of women's rights to be effective, Guinea must first develop an overall culture of human rights. To that end, the Guinean authorities had begun the revision of a number of legislative instruments, including the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Children's Code, with a view to building a regulatory and legal framework for the realization of women's rights.

3. The establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and Public Freedoms, the interministerial committee on human rights and the national observatory on gender-based violence was a testament to the Government's commitment to promoting women's rights in Guinea. A network of hundreds of NGOs working to protect women's rights had been making an active contribution to that end and had become important partners with the public authorities.

4. Progress had been made in the area of the right to life and protection of the human person. Measures were being taken to effectively combat all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation and sexual abuse. Considerable efforts were being made to combat impunity. A process of institutional reform had been undertaken in order to strengthen the State's capacity to prevent and punish violations of women's rights. As part of that process, the Government had introduced greater checks on the executive authorities, a strengthened parliamentary assembly, an independent judiciary and institutions to guarantee the rights and freedoms of all citizens. In short, the aim was to strengthen the rule of law. It was a long-term project and there were many challenges to be overcome, including high rates of poverty and illiteracy, which were a major obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights. Human rights and humanitarian law had therefore been included in the school and university curricula and professional training programmes as a matter of public policy.

5. Public awareness-raising on traditional practices that were harmful to maternal and child health was conducted throughout the country through all available modern and

traditional communication channels. In that context, women were informed as to how to exercise and defend their fundamental rights individually and collectively.

6. Measures would also be taken to address the slow pace and complexity of judicial proceedings, which affected the credibility of the country's courts. The Government's efforts centred on ensuring access to justice and the judicial institutions for all. The Government was committed to combating arbitrary arrest and detention and all forms of abuse against women and ensuring freedom of speech and assembly.

7. The fact that Guinea was currently faced with a serious health and humanitarian crisis could not be ignored. The Ebola virus had claimed many victims, and health workers and women had been disproportionately affected. The Heads of State and Government of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire had adopted a joint strategy for the eradication of Ebola in West Africa. At the national level, the Government had declared a public health emergency in August and had introduced compulsory medical checks at all border checkpoints and airports. The Ebola virus had had an impact on the national economy in the form of a downturn in trade, decreased productivity and a decline in activity in the transport, investment and tourism sectors. To date, Guinea had suffered a loss of almost 2.5 per cent of predicted growth in gross domestic product, and the situation could worsen if the epidemic was not stemmed. Guinea was grateful for the solidarity shown by many States and organizations in providing support. However, there were still pressing needs related to strengthening health infrastructure and increasing the number of health personnel and financial, material and logistical resources.

Articles 1 to 6

8. **Ms. Ameline**, Chairperson, who would be speaking in her capacity as an expert, said that it was time to put an end to the culture of impunity in the light of the State party's violent past. She wished to know what follow-up had been given to the conclusions of the commissions of inquiry into the events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea. She would be interested to know what had been done to ensure justice and reparations for the hundreds of rape victims, for example. Noting that the absence of a constitutional definition of discrimination in accordance with the Convention was an obstacle to real equality in practice, she asked what the State party intended to do to address that situation. She also wondered whether there were plans to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. She requested additional information on the situation of female refugees, women's access to justice and the situation of women in prisons.

9. **Ms. Schulz** asked about the time frame for adoption of the revised Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Children's Code by the National Assembly. She also wished to know when the State party intended to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. She would also be interested to know the time frame for the implementation of the measures to strengthen the judicial system, such as combating impunity and setting up courts, and what resources, including international assistance, were available for that process. She wished to know the Government's plans for ensuring sustainable budgetary resources for gender equality policy.

10. **Ms. Pomeranzi** asked about the size of organizational and human resources available to the Ministry for Social Affairs, the Advancement of Women and Children's Affairs and the percentage of the national budget allocated to it. She stressed the importance of putting the improvement of the situation of women at the centre of all policy, not only in areas such as health, employment and economy, but also in relation to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

11. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** noted that there were many plans in place related to gender equality but apparently very limited resources and wondered how much of the budget set aside for gender equality came from the State and how much from international donors. She would be interested to hear about the relationship between the Ministry for Social Affairs, the Advancement of Women and Children's Affairs and other State institutions and civil society. She asked whether the State's Ebola policy included a gender perspective and special provisions for women and girls.

12. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that dealing with the Ebola epidemic was a national priority. As the outbreak had come unexpectedly, the State party had not been well prepared and had faced major difficulties on account of its limited resources and gaps in its health service. As the Government had not originally expected the outbreak to last so long, it had simply adopted a generalized response for the population as a whole. However, as the epidemic continued to spread, efforts were being made to adapt the response to various groups, including children separated from their parents and widows, for example. Women were most at risk of contracting the virus as they played a traditional role as carers in the family. At the outset, an Ebola response centre had been set up in the capital's main hospital. However, with the help of development partners, services were now being decentralized in order to limit the risks to other patients at that hospital, and five centres would be established in other towns.

13. It was true that the budget for gender equality was limited and did not match the State party's ambitions in that area. The Ministry for Social Affairs, the Advancement of Women and Children's Affairs was partially decentralized but its objective was to have focal points in all parts of the country at all levels. There was a high level of commitment to supporting women in becoming independent as the most important step towards equality. With the support of the United Nations Population Fund, the Government was in the process of constructing centres for the empowerment of women nationwide; five of the eight centres had already been completed and an existing centre in Conakry had been completely refurbished. The centres provided training to girls and women in a range of vocational areas. There were also 14 microcredit institutions that provided loans to support revenue-generating activities. The Ministry of Agriculture provided women with equipment to alleviate their work in the fields.

14. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that guaranteeing access to justice for victims of violations was a priority for the Government. A distinction must be made between access to justice in peaceful times and times of crisis, such as in the aftermath of the events of 28 September 2009. During crises, the first step had been to recognize the facts that had emerged from the commissions of inquiry, including major violations of women's rights. Among the reforms undertaken, a panel of investigating judges had been put together. Some witnesses had been heard, but others were reluctant to come forward out of fear and a lack of trust in the justice system. Letters rogatory had been issued to foreign courts against accused persons absent from the country, but they had yet to produce results. The Government was committed to ensuring that victims' rights were restored. In peaceful times, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with NGOs, made efforts to set up special units to provide legal services to women in need, for example to help resolve marital conflicts.

15. With regard to the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Guinea had deposited its instruments of ratification in 2012 but was still awaiting acceptance of its ratification by other States. With regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the State party wished to ratify that instrument but was awaiting a decision from the committee responsible for evaluating all ratifications of international human rights instruments.

16. **Mr. Barry** (Guinea) said that a reform of the justice sector was one of numerous reforms initiated since the restoration of the constitutional order in 2010. A plan of action to carry out justice reform had been adopted in July 2014 and the Government had already embarked on penal reform, including a review of the Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Children's Code, in areas where external technical and financial assistance had not been required. Considerable progress had been made on incorporating the various international instruments to which Guinea was a party into national penal law. However, outside support was needed for the reconstruction of the judicial and prison system infrastructure. During the social upheavals in recent years, over half of the nation's prisons and judicial buildings had been destroyed, resulting in extreme prison overcrowding and poor living conditions, with men, women and children kept on the same premises. There were therefore plans to build a large new prison in Conakry and smaller facilities in the regions.

17. Although work to integrate the provisions of the Convention into the Civil Code had begun in 2001, setbacks associated with the turbulent events of the intervening years had meant that the relevant amendments could not be submitted for parliamentary approval. However, the 2013 elections had given a new impetus to the legislative effort; a new draft of the Code was under preparation and the appropriate provisions had been incorporated into the draft.

18. **Ms. Magassouba** (Guinea) said that the Forum of Women Parliamentarians comprising all female members of parliament was lobbying to accelerate the adoption of the revised Civil Code, which would be in line with the various undertakings assumed under the international instruments to which Guinea was a party. Anticipating queries regarding the repeal of articles under the Civil Code relating to the prohibition of polygamy, she explained that, when the revision process had commenced, Guinea had been led by a polygamous President who had systematically rejected any draft which prohibited polygamous practices. The Prime Minister at the time had also been seeking to take a second wife. The judges involved in the harmonization effort had therefore advised ministers that, in order to ensure the smooth passage of all other amendments, the article in question should allow for the option of limited polygamy. Fortunately, with the new democratic civil government in place, objections to the prohibition against polygamy should be a thing of the past and it was hoped that the draft could be reworked to reinstate the absolute prohibition prior to its submission for approval.

19. At the time of the Forum's establishment there had been no parliamentary commission for gender equality. However, during a recent visit, the Chairperson of the gender equality commission of the National Assembly of Sierra Leone had asked to meet her counterpart, giving the Forum fuel to fight successfully for the establishment of an equivalent commission in the Guinean legislature. Just one session had been held so far. The second would focus on gender-sensitive budgeting for 2015.

20. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Advancement of Women and Children had made every effort to ensure that the revised version of the Civil Code was passed, including by seeking the support of the Prime Minister and First Lady. Now that the Legislative Assembly was firmly in place, there should be no obstacles to the adoption of the amended Code.

21. Her Government had come up with a national action plan to give effect to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which would seek to provide the security and justice personnel with specialized training in the protection of the human rights of women in conflict situations and to raise public awareness about the resolution. Provision had also been made to enable NGOs involved in women's rights to associate themselves in court actions with the public prosecutor for violations of those rights and defend the victims. That was a significant advance as victims of offences such as assault or rape were often reluctant

to come forward. However, her Government would continue to need technical and capacity-building assistance, as it still lacked the qualified personnel necessary to fully uphold the rights of women.

22. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that positive law took precedence over the other existing forms of law in Ghana. However, in many regions, customary marriages were celebrated. The failure to register marriages with a civil registrar would not be resolved by invoking the relevant provisions of the Civil Code but rather by conducting extensive campaigns to raise awareness, particularly among illiterate women, that civil marriage must precede any religious marriage.

23. **Mr. Barry** said that his Government had embarked on justice reform that would stretch over the period 2014–2024. As public funding for carrying out the reform was inadequate, it was being introduced gradually, and he called for international assistance to expedite the process.

23. **Ms. Touré** (Guinea) said that Guinea had been one of first nations to introduce gender focal points, which had been accorded an increasingly high status in the Government. Separate gender units had been set up in the departments with the rank of administrative division. The Government would make every effort to ensure that the units had the necessary financial and human resources in cooperation with its international partners.

24. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that there had been considerable flows of refugees from war-torn neighbouring countries, notably Liberia and Sierra Leone. It had succeeded in repatriating on a voluntary basis many of those refugees, with the support of international partners. However, it had had no difficulties in integrating those who had wished to remain in the country into society and providing them with the necessary social services with the assistance of agencies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

25. **Mr. Diawara** (Guinea) said that with the adoption of the Constitution of May 2010, his Government was poised to set up a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. However, the efforts had been set back, as the current health crisis had drained resources away from doing so. Nevertheless, he trusted that such an institution would be put in place by 2015.

26. **Ms. Ameline**, commending the State party on the decentralized mechanisms for the protection of the rights of women and girls and welcoming the presence of a member of parliament on the delegation, said that the democratic transition of the country presented a number of opportunities. As the revision of the Criminal Code had not yet been completed, it would be opportune to review all the provisions of the Code which might be discriminatory, for example those covering rape. She urged the delegation to consider the comprehensive description of discrimination set out in the Convention, which would help to enable the State party to address all forms of violence against women.

27. **Ms. Schulz**, commending the State party on its extensive cooperation with NGOs, especially women's organizations, asked what was being done to ensure that the State was involved in promoting the rights of women throughout the country even when resources were lacking.

28. **Ms. Pomeranzi** said that local efforts played a particularly important role in developing countries such as Guinea. It was therefore important for local actors such as the gender units mentioned earlier to be given the proper authority so that they might effectively coordinate their efforts with NGOs on the ground.

29. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said that she would appreciate precise figures on the share and amount of the national budget that was set aside for gender mainstreaming and the

promotion of the rights of women and girls as well as of the funding from non-governmental organizations.

30. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that the decentralization of the institutions for the advancement of women was indeed part of the national vision. However, there had been a number of setbacks in recent years owing to the political situation in the country. Nevertheless, every effort would be made to further the decentralization process and to defend the status of the departments for the protection of women's rights that had been put in place. Without the support of NGOs and civil society organizations such efforts would be ineffective. The Government had begun to take stock of all NGOs working in regions that it had been unable to reach, which would enable it to work more closely with those organizations. Her delegation would provide the budget figures requested.

31. **Mr. Diawara** (Guinea) said that, although the Constitution did not set out a formal definition of discrimination, providing such a definition was a matter of concern to his Government. He cited article 8, which clearly guaranteed equality between men and women. Nevertheless, the issue of defining discrimination would be taken up by the national human rights institution that he had discussed earlier and his Government would take into consideration the Committee's recommendation concerning such a definition.

32. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said that the measures to promote genuine gender equality cited by the delegation in areas such as education did not constitute temporary special measures as such within the meaning and scope of the Convention. The prohibition in the State party against women's performing certain kinds of night work under the law was in no way a measure that would promote equality. While she welcomed the fact that pregnant teenagers were no longer expelled from school, which was a permanent rather than a temporary special measure, the State party might consider introducing a temporary special measure such as setting up a fund for pregnant students to help care for their children so that they could continue their studies. Another example of a special temporary measure might be to provide financial or other incentives to local authorities to end the practice of female genital mutilation. Lastly, she drew attention to general recommendation No. 25, on temporary special measures.

33. **Ms. Gabr** said that she did not find in the report or replies to the list of issues information on what the State party was doing to address stereotypes and harmful traditional practices, in particular the efforts to change attitudes and mindsets. How was the Government endeavouring to change hearts and minds about early and levirate marriage, for example? How were civil society and traditional leaders involved in dealing with the matter? More information was needed on the legal measures taken to criminalize practices such as female genital mutilation.

34. **Ms. Acar** said that the Government seemed to be passive or reticent when it came to combating gender stereotypes and discriminatory patterns and norms. She would like to know what specific measures had been taken to combat gender stereotypes and what impact they had had. Had the provision under the Civil Code which made men the heads of household been amended? She requested clarification of reports that female genital mutilation had been on the rise in Guinea and that more than a third of the cases of such mutilation had been performed by medical professionals despite its criminalization. She would appreciate specific data on the incidence of early marriage, domestic violence and sexual violence, including workplace harassment. Lastly, were there plans to enact a comprehensive law on violence against women and what relevant provisions would be included in the revised Criminal Code?

35. **Ms. Jahan**, noting that Guinea remained a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in women and children for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation, said that the Committee would welcome additional information on the root causes and

prevalence of trafficking in women and girls in the State party. She asked how the State party planned to provide the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Office for the Protection of Gender, Childhood and Morality with adequate financial and human resources. The Committee had received reports that law enforcement officials had helped to thwart investigations into cases of human trafficking. She invited the delegation to comment on those reports. She asked what measures the State party had taken to address shortcomings in the area of victim identification; whether law enforcement officials and judicial personnel had been provided with training on how to deal with cases of human trafficking; and whether Guinean peacekeeping forces received such training before embarking on United Nations peacekeeping missions.

36. The Criminal Code did not class human trafficking as a serious offence or prescribe stringent penalties that were commensurate with the gravity of the crime. She asked whether the State party intended to adopt a comprehensive anti-trafficking law prescribing harsher penalties for human trafficking and forced prostitution and whether it had adopted a new national action plan to combat trafficking to succeed the plan for the period 2011–2013. She asked whether prostitution remained illegal in Guinea and, if so, what penalties were prescribed for that offence. Lastly, she requested additional information on the role played by NGOs in protecting and rehabilitating victims of human trafficking and on the programmes available to women wishing to leave prostitution.

37. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons was the national mechanism responsible for coordinating all efforts to combat that phenomenon. Public sector actors and civil society organizations contributed to the work of the National Committee. Guinea had aligned the objectives of its national plan of action to combat trafficking with those of the regional plan of action adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries such as Mali and Senegal in an effort to combat trafficking in children. The Guinean authorities had recently collaborated with the Senegalese authorities to locate and repatriate a group of children who had been trafficked. The traffickers had been brought before the courts and tried. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had assisted Guinea in developing an anti-trafficking law. Guinea planned to incorporate the provisions of that law into its revised criminal legislation. Non-governmental organizations that worked to protect and assist women and children who had been trafficked could take legal action on their behalf. Guinea called upon the international community to assist it in training those responsible for intercepting trafficked women and children and in strengthening its borders.

38. **Mr. Barry** (Guinea) said that the act of prostitution itself was not illegal but that pimping was. Pimps incurred severe penalties under Guinean criminal law. Guinea was in the process of incorporating the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which criminalized forced prostitution, and the provisions of other relevant international agreements into its criminal legislation.

39. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that no studies had been conducted on female genital mutilation, early marriage or forced marriage. However, the Government recognized the need to collect statistical data on those phenomena in order to combat them more effectively. The Government had taken a number of steps to combat female genital mutilation. Victims of female genital mutilation could submit a complaint to the competent government ministries, which would ensure that they received adequate attention. Furthermore, schools were required to inform students of the dangers of female genital mutilation. The Government had also banned all materials promoting the practice and had launched a number of awareness-raising campaigns in an attempt to end it. The launch of one particular awareness-raising campaign, which had been funded by the United States of America, had been postponed on account of the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in the

region. It was hoped that the campaign would be launched before the end of 2014. Non-governmental organizations that assisted victims of female genital mutilation could take legal action against the perpetrators on behalf of the victims. A hotline for reporting cases of female genital mutilation had also been set up.

40. **Ms.** Aïssata M'Bara **Diallo** (Guinea) said that girls who fell pregnant were no longer expelled from school but instead could request to take a special leave of absence. The Government had previously taken positive discrimination measures to give schoolgirls greater access to bursaries. While those measures had since been discontinued because of public sector mismanagement, the Government intended to reintroduce them in the near future. More bursaries were granted to girls in the higher education system than to their male counterparts. The Government also practised positive discrimination to ensure that all girls wishing to pursue mathematics or science at university and who met the entrance requirements were automatically admitted to their course of choice. Furthermore, girls in secondary schools were actively encouraged to study mathematics and science.

41. **Ms.** Aïssatou **Diallo** (Guinea) said that the Government had launched campaigns to raise the awareness of schoolgirls of issues affecting their health and to inform them about family planning. It was hoped that those campaigns would lead to fewer adolescent pregnancies. The Government was also aware of the need to ensure that each prefecture had health-care centres where girls could go for check-ups and obtain information on issues relating to their sexual and reproductive health. Campaigns to raise the awareness of parents and girls of the dangers of early marriage had also been launched.

42. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that the high maternal mortality rate could be attributed in part to the fact that a large proportion of women chose to give birth at home to avoid paying for procedures such as Caesarean sections. The Government had since made Caesarean sections free of charge to all women in Guinea. The high maternal mortality rate could also be attributed to the distance that some women would have to travel to give birth in a health-care establishment. The Government was planning to increase the number of health-care establishments in each prefecture of the country to shorten the distance women would have to travel to access maternity services. Moreover, the provision establishing the man as the sole head of household had been removed from the revised version of the Civil Code.

43. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that the Government was committed to strengthening its partnership with civil society organizations that assisted women who were the victims of violence and had devised a set of operating guidelines to that end. The guidelines included a mechanism for providing women who reported an act of violence against them with immediate protection, as well as access to justice and rehabilitation services. A hotline had also been set up for women in distress. The Government planned to amend its criminal legislation to class sexual harassment in the workplace and other settings as a crime. Perpetrators of acts of violence against women and sexual harassment would be prosecuted and punished.

44. **Ms. Acar** asked whether the State party planned to adopt a comprehensive law prohibiting violence against women and whether legal action could also be taken against health professionals who practised female genital mutilation.

45. **Ms. Ameline** asked whether the State party planned to decriminalize homosexuality, as lesbian women were often subject to multiple forms of discrimination. She also wished to know whether the Government collected statistics when carrying out its various national action plans.

46. **Ms. Jahan** requested additional information on the anti-trafficking law developed in cooperation with UNODC and on the programmes available to women wishing to leave prostitution.

47. **Ms. Šimonović** asked whether the State party intended to amend its Constitution to include a definition of discrimination against women that was in line with that contained in article 1 of the Convention, whether the Convention prevailed over domestic legislation and could be applied directly in the State party and when the revised Civil Code would be adopted.

48. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that, while homosexual relations were treated as a crime under the law, homosexuality was still practised in the country. The Government did not discriminate against homosexuals but found it difficult to keep open lines of communication with associations advocating their rights. No cases relating to homosexuality had been brought before the courts. If homosexual men or women felt that their rights had been violated, they could file a complaint with the judicial authorities.

49. The anti-trafficking law was a specific, stand-alone piece of legislation, which had been the subject of extensive consultations with experts in women's rights and other fields. However, the Government had subsequently decided that the provisions of the anti-trafficking law should be incorporated into the country's revised criminal legislation. Once that process was completed, the anti-trafficking law would cease to exist. The law guaranteed victims of trafficking access to medical and legal assistance. Civil society organizations played an active role in providing the victims of trafficking with the requisite guidance and support.

50. The Government intended to conduct a study to determine the prevalence of prostitution in the country. After the study had been completed, the Government could begin to devise programmes to assist women wishing to leave prostitution. Prostitutes needed to be informed of the risks associated with prostitution and how to care for their health.

51. International conventions were ratified by the National Assembly and then promulgated by the President of the Republic. Once published in the Official Journal, international conventions could be invoked before the courts and applied directly.

52. **Mr. Barry** (Guinea) said that the country's criminal legislation had been revised to ensure consistency with the May 2010 Constitution, to incorporate provisions of international instruments and to remove outdated provisions. The process of revising the country's criminal legislation was not yet complete.

53. **Ms. Kaba** (Guinea) said that there was currently no comprehensive law prohibiting violence against women. The Government would give serious thought to adopting such a law in the future. It was hoped that the National Assembly would adopt the revised Civil Code by April 2015.

Articles 7 to 9

54. **Ms. Gbedemah** said that, despite the fact that the 2009 Constitution set a 30 per cent quota for women in elected office and that the Electoral Code set a 30 per cent quota for women on parliamentary candidate lists, women were still underrepresented at those levels. She asked what obstacles were preventing the equal participation of women in public life and what temporary special measures had the State party taken to reverse the effects of those obstacles. How did the State party ensure that the quotas provided for in the 2009 Constitution and the Electoral Code were met and did the State party plan to introduce penalties for non-compliance? Why had the number of women occupying ministerial positions fallen? She also enquired as to the content of the bill on parity mentioned in the State party's written replies (CEDAW/C/GIN/Q/7-8/Add.1).

55. In its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GIN/CO/6), the Committee had recommended that the State party should establish concrete goals and timetables with a

view to accelerating its efforts to increase the number of women in elected and appointed office in all areas of public life, take measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions in the public administration and in the private sector and highlight the importance of women's full and equal participation in leadership positions for the development of the country. She asked what measures the State party had taken to give effect to the Committee's recommendations in that regard and what results had been achieved.

56. **Ms. Nwankwo** said that the Committee welcomed the fact that the discriminatory provisions on nationality and birth registration referred to in the written replies had been revised in the draft Civil Code. The revised Civil Code should therefore be adopted as soon as possible to give effect to the new provisions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.